The claim of the invention is:

- 1. A method for performing biological assay in a microfluidic biochip platform providing constant and consistent reaction volume defining a reaction zone, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing a plurality of microfluidic channels with a constant cross-section area;
- (b) immobilizing at least one biological probe on said reaction zone; and
- (c) transporting fluid in said microfluidic channels to said reaction zone, a portion of said fluid reacting with said at least one probe, wherein said reaction volume is product of said cross-section area multiplied with length of said microfluidic channels having said at least one biological probe.
- 2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein a portion of said microfluidic channels has serpent-like structure, said serpent-like structure overlaying with at least a portion of said reaction zone.
- 3. The method as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein said microfluidic channels have dimension between $0.5 \mu m$ and 2 mm in cross-section.
- 4. The method as defined in claim 1 or 2, the microfluidic biochip platform further comprising at least one sample source and at least one reagent solution, wherein a portion of said microfluidic channels is connected to said at least one sample source and to said at least one reagent solution.
- 5. The method defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein said fluid in said microfluidic channels is moved by a pressurizing mechanism for providing a forward-moving fluid.
- 6. The method defined in claim 1 or 2, the method further comprising the steps of:
 - (a) immobilizing said at least one biological probe on magnetic beads;
 - (b) transporting said magnetic beads through said microfluidic channels;
 - (c) providing at least one external magnet from magnet sources beneath said reaction zone; and
 - (d) switching on said at least one external magnet to trap said magnetic beads.

10/9/01

- 7. The method defined in claim 2, wherein said biochip platform further comprises:
 - (a) said at least one biological probe immobilized on said reaction zone of a base plate;
 - (b) said microfluidic channels patterned on a bottom surface of a top plate; and
 - (c) said top plate coupled on top of said base plate.
- 8. The microfluidic biochip platform according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said probe is protein.
- 9. The microfluidic biochip platform according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said probe is nucleic acid.
- 10. The microfluidic biochip platform according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said probe is biological cell.
- 11. The microfluidic biochip platform according to claim 1 or 2 further comprising an optical detector located above said reaction zone.
- 12. A method for performing biological assay in a biochip with an array of microfluidic channels providing flexible and controllable immobilization for at least one biological probe, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) immobilizing said at least one biological probe on magnetic beads;
 - (b) selecting at least one of said magnetic beads and transporting said magnetic beads through one of said microfluidic channels;
 - (c) providing at least one external magnet beneath a portion of said microfluidic channels; and
 - (d) switching on said at least one external magnet for immobilization of at least one of said at least one biological probe.
- 13. The method defined in claim 12, wherein said external magnets have on and off switching mechanisms for immobilizing or removing said biological probe in said microfluidic channels; and an electronic means for controlling said on and off switching mechanisms.

10/9/01

- 14. The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said microfluidic channels have dimension between $0.5~\mu m$ and 2 mm in cross-section.
- 15. The method as defined in claim 12, the biochip further comprising at least one sample source and at least one reagent solution, wherein a portion of said microfluidic channels is connected to said at least one sample source and to said at least one reagent solution.
- 16. The method defined in claim 12, wherein said fluid in said microfluidic channels is moved by a pressurizing mechanism for providing a forward-moving fluid.
- 17. The biochip according to claim 12, wherein said probe is protein.
- 18. The biochip according to claim 12, wherein said probe is nucleic acid.
- 19. The biochip according to claim 12, wherein said probe is biological cell.
- 20. The biochip according to claim 12 further comprising an optical detector located above said microfluidic channels.